

HOW WOUNDED YANK IS TREATED FROM HOSPITAL TO HOME

Private John Smith Finds Many Experts Working for His Comfort

20,000 SENT BACK MONTHLY

Uncle Sam's Long Arm Provides Best Possible Conditions for Nephews Overseas

One hundred and twenty-nine thousand sick and wounded Yanks have made the journey from the battle front, the advanced section and the S.O.S. to their own homes back in America from the time the A.E.F. came to France up to the beginning of this May.

With the A.E.F. fast disappearing westward, the medical map in the office of the Chief Surgeon at Tours now shows that less than 400 wounded Yanks remain in the hospitals of France, all of whom will be home within the next 60 days, according to present estimates.

In accomplishing this task of speeding thousands of helpless soldiers back home, the Medical Department utilized an endless moving chain of ambulance hospital trains, barges and specially adapted ocean transports, working with a succession of hospital centers strung from the front areas to the seaports of France.

When Pvt. John Smith was found during the St. Mihiel offensive with a shattered thigh, he was taken to the battalion aid station, which was the first step of the journey which eventually took him back to America. Under similar conditions, thousands of wounded and sick Yanks made the same journey, at all times under the attention of a member of the Medical Department—from battle front to home.

First Stage of the Trip

After Private Smith's thigh was shattered, it was several hours before the stretcher bearers located him and carried him to the battalion aid station, where there were many of his comrades, some more, others less fortunate than he.

There the surgeons attended him. An assistant gave him an injection of anti-tetanus serum and rapidly marked some micrographs on his forehead. "This'll keep you from getting the lockjaw," one of them laconically remarked. He was then ready to form one of a long conveyance to go to the rear. At nightfall he was on his way back to the divisional field hospitals with many other comrades.

Several kilometers brought Private Smith and his comrades to the location of the field hospitals, where they became a part of an endless reception line. The patients were distributed to different hospitals in accordance with their conditions. Some went to the gas section; others, purely medical cases, to a section devoted to the care of the sick.

They took Private Smith to the surgical hospital, where his splint was examined to see whether it was properly applied. Other men who had come back with wounds of the anti-tetanus serum were given it at the field hospital. Every one received a dose of it, if he had any injury, no matter how slight. The forehead marking was made with a pen, showing that he received the preventative and to enable the doctors at the field hospitals to tell quickly who had been missed.

Very little time was spent on the men in the field hospitals, because casualties were always occurring, and each man who was injured had to have a bandage put on him. The injured who could not be moved were operated on at the field hospitals and kept there until it was safe for them to travel by ambulance back to the evacuation hospitals. Special operating teams of doctors and nurses were sent up to the front to care for those gravely wounded.

En Route for Toul

On the same night Private Smith was added to another conveyance and placed in an ambulance which was to carry him to the large group of evacuation hospitals in Toul, about 25 kilometers to the south.

Those large casernes were a heap of solid comfort to him. It had been months since he had anything like a bed, and he was sleeping. At Toul the patients went through the sorting process again, and then were assigned to hospitals. On the surgical side, wherein Private Smith was carried, he rapidly experienced the removal of all grime of the battlefield.

When he awakened, there was a constant movement in and out of the ward of little patients. One after another they were being taken to the nearby operating room. Groups of patients who had been in the hospital for some days were taken out on wheelchairs to those from other wards and hospitals, brought by ambulance to the loading platform, where they were placed aboard one of the comfortable hospital trains and evacuated further to the rear.

Private Smith found himself shortly in a large room where everything was rapidly moving. Along both sides of the room were rows of operating tables, around which were silently but busily working white-gowned doctors and nurses. No sooner was a patient removed from an operating table than another took his place.

Private Smith's turn came, and after several deep inhalations of pungent ether, he was in the land of forgetfulness.

17,000 Patients in One Hospital

Large hospital centers are located along the divergent rail routes from Toul to the embarkation points, and the curiosity of all the wounded Yanks was aroused as to which one they might go. Some of these hospital centers had as many as 17,000 patients in them.

Up to the signing of the armistice, 6,000 sick and wounded officers and 200,000 sick and wounded enlisted men were carried from evacuation hospitals to one of the hospitals further back by hospital trains.

By hospital train Private Smith was taken to the hospital center at Mars, where his long wire splint, which enabled him being moved about, was succeeded by an other type swung by cords from an overhead framework attached to the bed.

In the case of Private Smith, his stay at the Mars hospital was longer than anticipated. Eventually the board of medical officers passed on his case and he was classified "D," or grouped among those who, it was thought, would be better off at home.

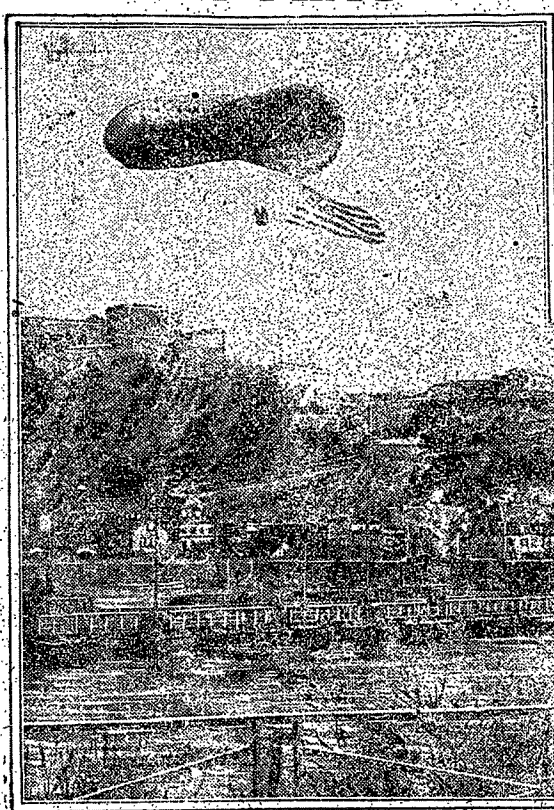
Homeward Bound!

Then came the second trip by hospital train. He had no more to do but wait for the homeward bound, with only one more stop before embarking on the Atlantic.

All patients destined for the States went either to Base Section 1 at St. Nazaire, or Base Section 2 at Beau Desert, near Bordeaux, for final preparation for the boat trip. In Base Section 2 there is a large group of American hospitals, with a maximum capacity of 10,000 patients, and another large hospital of 2,000 beds in the city itself. At St. Nazaire, the hospital center, which prepared most of the patients who were sent to Base Section 1, has a bed capacity of about 8,000.

At St. Nazaire, the patient had to be put in condition to stand the ocean travel, so it was sometimes several weeks before a wounded Yank could be released. His medical history had to be completed at St. Nazaire in order that the surgeons into whose hands he fell when he reached home would have an intelligent idea of what his condition had been and how to continue his treatment. The Navy decided what different classes of patients a particular boat would hold, depending upon the sick-bay capacity. Each boat is given a rated capacity and when it reaches the embarkation port, the

THE FLAG ON EHRENBREITSTEIN



THE FORTRESS of Ehrenbreitstein, Germany, is built on a lofty, precipitous rock, 400 feet high, at a point where the Moselle flows into the Rhine. The rock was once the site of a Roman fort, said to have been built in the time of the Emperor Julian.

The American flag, which flies from the highest point on the fort, represents the final objective of the A.E.F.: It remains flying there, while the force that put it there is slowly but surely breaking up and preparing to go home.

Ehrenbreitstein has been the scene of many battles and sieges, particularly during the Thirty Years' War. It was besieged by the French in 1793, and starved into surrender. At the Peace of Lunéville it was decided to blow its defenses to pieces.

At the Second Peace of Paris, however, the French were forced to pay the Prussian Government 15,000,000 francs for its restoration, and from 1815-1825 it was scientifically reconstructed, being considered, after its completion, the strongest fortress in Europe after Gibraltar.

When, after William I and Bismarck had pushed the German frontiers beyond the Rhine by taking Alsace-Lorraine from France, the fortress, no longer a border defense, was permitted to fall into decay. Though a large portion was always kept there, the garrison marched out, with flags flying, just before the Americans occupied it.

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We have not brought that banner. Through storms of gas and lead. Through your shell-swept trenches. That are mounded with our dead. For a time of triumph. Above the ancient Rhine. But to leave you for the future. A warning and a sign.

Ye may back you in your legends. Of the mighty sword of Siegfried. And the hammer strokes of Thor. But drink no more the poison. Of gold and superstition. Or Ehrenbreitstein. Will cross the seas again.

For the lands that through the decades. Have borne your threats and fears. And broke your clanking armor. And the rattle of your spears. Now guard earth's peace and freedom. With Columbia's steel-blue lance. Beside the English broadsword. And the rapier of France.

We take no need of vengeance. Nor gold nor gear nor crust. Ye dared us to the combat. And we stretched you in the dust. But touch no more our sister. Whose lord ye hoped to be. And paid no more a brother. Of the islands of the sea.

Of your deed of blood and iron. The world has had surcease. Mankind is weary. To walk its way in peace. Lift up your eyes, ye people. Mark well that high-flung sign. The flag on Ehrenbreitstein. Above the German Rhine. JOSEPH MILLS HANSON, Capt., F.A.

Between its jagged summits. And ruined castles gray. Between its clambering vineyards. And orchards white with May. The rushing Rhine rolls seaward. And, hushed by Coblenz tower. A flag on Ehrenbreitstein. Upon that tide locks down.

Its stripes of white and crimson. Are hushed forth on high. Its starry field of azure. Seems part of God's own sky. By winds that touched his flags. When Caesar's legions came. The flag on Ehrenbreitstein. Is fanned to rippling flags.

Slow it in the city. The passing, townfolk stare. With eyes of unseeing anger. To see it waving there. Where once the Prussian war lord. Gazed forth across the land. And dreamed the world lay conquered. Beneath his iron hand.

What make ye of that banner. Ye folk of Coblenz town. What think ye of the field flags. That trail from the ramparts frown? And know ye all the meaning. Of the blue and red and white. That waves from Ehrenbreitstein. And read ye its secret?

Saint George's cross is floating. Over the roofs of Mayence. The Tricolor is flown. But now between them flutters. Fair freedom's final sign. The New World's starry banner. Above the German Rhine. 'Above the German Rhine.

'Because ye dreamed that terror. Could stay the arm of right. That steel was more than might. And justice, less than might. Our strong-armed Western legions. Have put your hosts to rout. And set on Ehrenbreitstein. The flag, ye dared to flout.

OLDEST YANKS, SHORTEST YANKS AND OTHER—EST YANKS

The "Oldest man in the Army" contest is waxing hot.

"Dad" W. E. Ellis, who was a member of the 5th Maryland Infantry, 30 years ago, tried hard to take the record for the 13th Veterinary Corps with his age of 18 years 8 months, and a hunting license to prove it, but Company B, 57th Engineers, wins the honor. Sgt. Daniel Gould heads the list of ten veritable grandpas of the A.E.F. with an age of 57. The others are:

| | |
|--------------------|-----|
| Sgt. L. E. Probst | 53 |
| Cpl. Mike Ryan | 53 |
| Sgt. J. R. Harnett | 51 |
| Cpl. M. A. Dillard | 51 |
| Pvt. J. R. Dodson | 50 |
| Cook Ellis Dolton | 49 |
| Cpl. Frank Douglas | 48 |
| Cpl. George Ward | 48 |
| M. E. Frank Strong | 47 |
| Aggregate age | 592 |

Bakery Company 301 forges to the top of the Army—Estis this week with the certified claim of an average deposit with the Quartermaster of \$103.39, made by 91.3 per cent of the members of the company.

In addition, this company claims that every man in the outfit except one has an allotment, and that 38 per cent of its members completed payment on the Third Liberty Loan since arrival in France.

The record of the 109th Ammunition Train is also topped by Company A, 36th Service Battalion, claiming deposits of \$53.17 per man, with a total of \$10,455.84 in the hands of the company.

Company D, 18th Engineers, claims three men over 60, with an aggregate age of 210 years. Only names and figures are given, but the gold-hatted messkit until they give more dope.

The sleepiest Yanks are in for a long call on Morpheus. The members of the 375th Aero Squadron will back up Abe Levie for 5,000 francs, kopecks or marks, claiming that "Diamond" as they call him, is the only man in the A.E.F. that ever wore out eight olive drab blankets and never complained of bed sores after that trip.

France's record of a few weeks ago is also questioned by Motor Transport Company 307. They are willing to stake their last franc on Sgt. Norman, a champion sleeper. He will be willing to retire in heavy marching order, campaign hat, wristlets, overcoats and hobnails, even arctic snowshoes, if obtainable.

Even the prize Mutt and Jeff pair of the 356th Infantry is violently assailed with "castles" and "Pvt. 1st Cl. Clifton C. Niblack is 6 feet 8 inches tall, weighs 220 pounds and is a member of 1st Detachment, 23rd M.P.C. He thinks rabbits are pick-nick morsels from the top of North Carolina pine trees. In the same company is Private 1st Class Nolasco as a 4-foot 11-inch sized "Diamond" as they call him, a company member, who stands on the tip of the big boy's shoestrings. But Private Nolasco has nothing on Anthony Di Nardo, in the Health Office at Nantes, who is only 66 inches high. The only way he got in the Army

Navy people call on the Army for so many patients.

Evacuating by Regulation

When a hospital, like the one at Savenay, receives a requisition, the evacuating officer, who keeps a tabulated list showing the number of different kinds of patients he has who are ready to go, selects the required number of each class. Finally each man must be placed in a definitely organized numbered detachment, usually of 150 men, so that he will constantly remain identified with some organization and not become lost as a casual.

A medical officer inspects each man, within 24 hours of his departure, to see that he is free from all infectious diseases as well as codices. The patient is given a certain amount of clothing and equipment, including toilet articles, which have to pass muster before officers of the Inspector General's Department. An official of the Adjutant General's Department then inspects all the records connected with this case.

The patients who satisfy all these requirements are then taken to a row of barracks whose interiors are partitioned off so that each compartment holds the same number of patients as can be placed in a car of a hospital train. This makes it easy to load the trains and eliminates confusion.

During the war and until a short time ago, 20,000 sick and wounded Yanks had been sent home every month, in the same manner as Private Smith.

was by boarding a train with some soldiers on route to camp. He was on no list, and he stuck around until they put him in klinki and made a soldier out of him.

On June 3, 1917, while stationed at Gottsburg, Pa., Sgt. Richard E. Willis, now Lieutenant, Company L, 126th Infantry, was issued a pair of field shoes, size 8 1/2 EE, by Company K, 4th Infantry. He has worn them continuously, through Camp Dix, hiked with them through part of England, trained with them in France, fought with them on the front, maneuvered in them on the Rhine, and is now marking time with them at Brest. This latter exercise, he claims, is harder on hobnails than any work they have done yet. If the boat does not hit the harbor soon he will have a two-year record with them.

The chow-line speed record, claimed by General Mess Hall No. 2, Reserve Camp, Montoir, is knocked all hollow this week in a letter from one of the mess mob at Hall No. 1, Camp No. 1, St. Nazaire. The day and night rolls at that kitchen show a total of 205 men, and during the month of February they fed an average of 7,556 men per meal. The time consumed in serving 8,143 men from the moment they first reached the serving tables until the last man was served was 42 minutes.

"A Casual" claims that he has been in France over a year and his spirals have never come down. He also claims that he has seen three of his old outfit sail for home since he has been here.

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The Gault Company OF AMERICA

Miss Doris Hutchins, of Honolulu, a Y.M.C.A. worker at Biarritz, claims the record as the first member of the A.E.F. to take a dip in the Atlantic surf this season; to wit, March 7.

Cook Fred J. Schmidt, Base Hospital 21, begs that he be given a medal for being the CANT READ LINE, stating that Sergeant Mumsheff, to whom that title was given in the issue of February 21, is just six months behind time. Schmidt writes that his boy was born in France on July 17, 1918.

Sgt. Ernest Filer, of the Soldiers' Actors' Section, challenges any one to train more animals than he. He holds the title of the most successful animal trainer in the world.

When Yankee Doodle learns to parlez-vous Français, he can say: "Donnez-moi tout sweet."

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PARIS OFFICE: 41, Boulevard Haussmann

NEW A.E.F. GROWING UP IN ST. NAZAIRE

It Doesn't Dress Regulation and It Is Way Below Army Age, Too

A second A.E.F. is being potted and pampered, persuaded and coddled into being composed of soldierly individuals, always observant of military rules and discipline. Lieut. Col. W. B. Meister, who used to spend all his time directing the functions of Base Hospital No. 101, situated near St. Nazaire, is now assigned as commanding officer of the recruits, in addition to his present duties.

But the recruits haven't any more respect, of course, from a military standpoint, for their C.O. than for a buck private who happens to be passing. This new A.E.F. doesn't stand any formations, the members roll whenever they desire, even though a top kick, thus called "Pipe down," they don't cut out of mess kits, nor do they ever get detailed to K.P. or guard duty.

Why? Because they don't rate it. They are the sons of two members of the enlisted personnel of Base Hospital No. 101, and one of them is about a month old and the other is 11 days his senior. Their presence is all a part of a plan evolved by Colonel Meister for the care of mothers and wives of members of the A.E.F.

One of 'Em's Named Taps

These first two babies will probably forget about the military life when their fathers and mothers arrive in the States this summer, but one of them, born unfortunately at the same time that a hard boiled bugler was sounding taps, will never be able to live down his first name, for as the nurse announced to "Private Papa Bernard" that a son had been presented him, he heard the bugle jangling wind and exclaimed, "This name shall be Taps."

The junior member of this new outfit, which will hardly replace the Third Army, or be sent to St. Albert for assignment to duty or to casual outfit returning to the States, was born early one morning some six weeks ago in that interval between first call and the rolling out of the mess hounds for breakfast. So he bears a civilian name, namely, Jack Estep.

So much attention is being given these babies that it is likely they will be as cocky as a newly cooped second lieutenant when they are large enough to get their first saluted under the mess hall. The nurse, especially those who work during the day, when these babies want to hit the bunk for a spell, tug gently at the blanket covering their bodies and mutter, "You sweet little snugglers, you are the first soldier I met that couldn't be flattered." And then the private snarls by—and even the top kicke—and are as seriously as new soldiers who may be wearing their chevrons soon.

It is only natural that this ward should be established at this hospital, for Base Hospital No. 101 was the first to be opened in France. In fact, many of the personnel will soon be seeing on their fourth service stripes. It can be seen from the foregoing that the members of the unit have not been too busy, during the last two years, to commit matrimony in France.

27TH DIVISION CLUB

Former officers of the 27th Division still in France have organized the "Puribus Unum Officers' Club." The club originated among 25 officers who through promotion or transfer were assigned to other divisions. Now its members are being listed by the secretary, Lieut. M. A. Van Deusen, 9th Infantry, A.E.F., A.P.O. 710.

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GOVERNMENT AIDS ALL DISABLED MEN TO GET BETTER JOB

500 A.E.F. Wounded Now Taking Business Course Free of Charge

[By Cable to THE STARS AND STRIPES,] AMERICA, May 29.—The United States Government, having given its word that no American soldier disabled in line of duty shall have to face life alone, the definite program is now well under way to make of the thousands of Yanks permanently suffering from the effects of war a public asset rather than a liability.

To this end, the Federal Board for Vocational Education, charged with the mission of restoring these men to the effective list in civilian life, fitting them for a productive place in the world and putting their lives into happy running order, is already at work with encouraging results.

Already 178 members of the A.E.F. physically impaired in the contact with the enemy are studying engineering at 15 of the greatest technical schools in America. More than 600 are taking commercial courses in the great business schools of the country. Hundreds are taking courses to prepare themselves to teach the light arts and crafts. Hundreds more are following up their preparation for the professions and trades with an intensity that promises to overbalance their physical handicap.

Agents of the Federal Board are also working among the small number of incapacitated men still in A.E.F. hospitals.

Every Disabled Man's Chance.

Vocational training at Government expense is open to all soldiers declared "compensable" under the War Risk Insurance Act. For compensation under this act, the applicant must have sustained injuries that amount to at least 10 per cent of a total disability. When once declared entitled to compensation by the War Risk Insurance Board, there are no further formalities—the doors are open for the soldier to train for a position of usefulness in the world without cost to himself and with the encouragement of the Federal Board.

The men are allowed while training a month and all tuition, and all for, paid by the Government. The man's dependents are also taken care of.

One of the most liberal features of the American offer to disabled soldiers is guarantee that, no matter how high the money-making power may be developed under the vocational education plan, proper allowances under the War Risk Insurance Act will be continued, regardless of that fact.

Whether or not a soldier declared disabled and entitled to compensation wishes to avail himself of the Government's offer of vocational education is left entirely with the soldier himself. And should he turn it down now, he may yet have other chances in the future to accept it, should he change his mind.

The policy of discharging disabled men from the Army before the Government's vocational education offer could be laid before them has now been abandoned. Every one of these men will have the opportunity placed clearly before him hereafter before he is sent home.

Government something less than \$5 each to get in touch with the men in the hospitals, prepare their papers, make out their War Risk claims and have them vocally scrutinized, while it costs more than \$100 to do the same thing for each one of them after he has left the service.